

ByWard Market BIA Executive Director

From: ByWard Market BIA Executive Director
Sent: January 26, 2022 1:09 PM
To: Fleury, Mathieu (Personal)
Cc: Ashley Hopkins; deek@thelaff.ca; Galipeau, Stephane
Subject: ByWard Market BIA Concerns Ahead of January 29, 2022 Demonstration
Attachments: Member Message 2.jpg; Message to Member 1.jpg; Member Message 3.jpg

Dear Councillor Fleury,

We are writing seeking support and clarity for ByWard Member businesses ahead of this weekend's demonstrations. The concerns at this time are beyond traffic disruptions, but include safety and security concerns given some individuals aligning themselves with the protestors on the way suggesting they are coming en masse and will not be following public health restrictions.

We are hearing concerns from ByWard Market businesses regarding safety and security this weekend, given the risk of escalation among not only the large number of protestors rolling in, but other players who are coming forward among the Freedom narrative. Businesses have been receiving messages encouraging them to ignore public health measures this weekend and open for the truckers in solidarity. Our own office at the BIA has received one of these calls suggesting that it would be smart business for us to open especially for the influx of people in Ottawa this weekend.

I have attached screenshots of what has been received by one business for their multiple locations. Others have had anti-maskers blatantly detail that they will be showing up this weekend and will not be following any public health guidelines. Some have taken to flyer-ing calling for revolution. This, of course, in the context of [coverage](#) detailing that there are some protestors suggesting and hoping that this weekend will be a Canadian equivalent of the American riots of January 6, 2021.

In response to this, we have some businesses electing to stay closed to not put their staff at risk; others are minimizing their already limited offerings at a time when many are already struggling because of, while still abiding by, public health restrictions.

We are confident that the convoy of protestors are not the source of these challenges, but rather others who are using the weekend as an opportunity to share their views in less peaceful and respectful ways. We are also hopeful that this weekend will be nothing more than a peaceful demonstration on Parliament Hill and adjacent areas. However, there is legitimate concern given the influx of people, the overall atmosphere, and the outreach to date that there is the possibility for escalation.

To ensure public safety in the ByWard Market amid the weekend, we are seeking confirmation of deployment of extra by-law officers as well as the Ottawa Police Service. At minimum, a doubling of Bylaw officers to ensure compliance with public health restrictions throughout the ByWard Market and to prevent escalation with businesses' staff in enforcing public health orders would be beneficial.

It is our hope to get confirmation on the City's plan to address this major demonstration and its offshoots, particularly for businesses in the ByWard Market who are concerned for the health, safety, and well-being of themselves and their staff. Specifically, we are eager to share with membership what is being done to assist them through this demonstration, what resources will be available, and how they are supported at this already challenging time.

Sincerely,

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Kalin McCluskey
Executive Director | Directrice générale
ByWard Market Business Improvement Area (BIA)
Zone d'amélioration du marché By (ZAC)
202-267 rue Dalhousie Street
Ottawa, ON – K1N 7E3

Tel: 613-562-3325

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